

Claims

1. Method for supporting services of an IP-based video network, according to which
 - 5 a) a subscriber of the video network is registered on request with a presence server via his/her IP-capable terminal as a user of a presence-based service,
 - b) said subscriber is logged on by his/her IP-capable terminal to the presence server as soon as his/her
10 terminal becomes active, whereby, as part of said log-on, information about the presence status of the subscriber is stored by the presence server,
 - c) corresponding presence information about other subscribers is made available to said subscriber in the event of a
15 corresponding request with the aid of his/her IP-capable terminal.
2. Method as claimed in claim 1,
20 characterized in that
in addition to the presence status, further video network-specific information such as e.g. concerning services actually used or films actually seen can be transmitted to said subscriber and/or evaluated.
- 25 3. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that a service is made available to said subscriber depending on the presence information which he/she has obtained about other subscribers with the aid of said
30 request.
4. Method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3,
characterized in that

subscribers of another IP-based network are also enabled to log on to the presence server.

5. Presence server which

- 5 a) stores presence data concerning the subscribers of an IP-based video network,
- b) transmits said presence data to the IP-capable terminal of a subscriber on request.

10 6. Presence server as claimed in claim 5, comprising an interface to a control server for controlling the video services of the video network, via which the presence server can request which details (features) or contents a video subscriber is currently using via the service.

15

7. IP-capable terminal of a video network which

- a) directs a subscriber request for presence information concerning at least one other subscriber of the video network to a central device of the video network,
- 20 b) displays, on the basis of said subscriber request, presence information received concerning the at least one other subscriber on the TV device of the requesting subscriber.

25 8. IP-capable terminal as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that it enables said requesting subscriber to initiate a communication service to at least one other subscriber concerning whom the requesting subscriber has obtained presence
30 information on the basis of said request.

9. IP-capable terminal as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that

said communication service is the "Exchange of text messages" (Instant Messaging) service.

10. IP-capable terminal as claimed in any one of claims 7 to
5 9,
characterized in that
the central device is a presence server.

11. IP-capable terminal as claimed in any one of claims 7 to
10 9,
characterized in that
the central device is a control server for controlling the
video network.

15 12. IP-capable terminal as claimed in any one of claims 7 to
11,
[characterized in that]
it implements said subscriber request by means of an IP-based
protocol.

20 12.[sic] IP-capable terminal as claimed in claim 11,
characterized in that
the IP-based protocol is the SIP protocol.

25 13. IP-capable terminal as claimed in claim 11,
characterized in that
the IP-based protocol is the HTTP protocol.

14. IP-capable terminal, comprising
30 an application (PUA) which, prompted by a first subscriber of
the video network by means of an IP-based protocol, fetches
from a presence server presence data concerning at least one
other subscriber and displays this on the TV device of the
first subscriber.

15. IP-capable terminal as claimed in claim 7 or 14,
characterized in that
the IP-capable terminal is a set-top box (STB).

5

10